

## Highlight of the Month - Shared Sacrifice

“This is the first prolonged war we have fought with three years of tax cuts, without full mobilization of American industry and without a draft. The burden of this war has not been shared equally; the military and their families are shouldering this burden.” - Congressman Murtha, November 17, 2005

At a time of war, I believe in shared sacrifice.

During World War II, Americans sacrificed not only their life and limb through military service but also economically through higher taxes and rationed commodities. The highest income bracket was taxed at over 90 percent. Over 16 million Americans served during World War II, and 10 million of those were drafted.

I left college and enlisted as a private in the U.S. Marine Corps because I didn't feel comfortable knowing that across the world hundreds of thousands of Americans, many from my generation, were serving in the Korean War. I volunteered to serve in Vietnam, even though I wasn't eligible for the military draft. Thousands of other Americans did the same.

Today, very few Americans are sacrificing during this time of war. Less than one half of one percent serve in the military, and the \$343 billion we are currently spending every day just in Iraq is being credited to future generations. Today, the highest income bracket is taxed at less than 40 percent, and instead of a draft the President insists on sending the same few Americans back to the war theater.

The war in Iraq has almost no impact on the daily lives of most Americans.

I strongly believe that our military and their families should not be the only Americans serving and sacrificing at a time of war. In 2004, I voted to reinstate the military draft. Only two of us, in a 435 member body, voted for the bill. Just this past fall, Congressman Obey, Congressman McGovern and I introduced a bill requiring a war surtax, because we believe that if the war is worth fighting then it should be worth paying for. This Administration has borrowed every penny of the \$535 billion appropriated for Iraq. This means that the troops fighting in Iraq today will be paying for this credited war for the rest of their lives.

How about some shared sacrifice?

October 16, 2007

How About Some Shared Sacrifice?

Dear Colleague:

After six years of breathtaking fiscal irresponsibility, the White House is now trying to pose for fiscal holy pictures by threatening to veto our efforts to provide \$22 billion in crucial education, health, science, and law enforcement investments that will make this a stronger, better, and more secure country.

Yet at the same time, the White House does not blink at the prospect of spending ten times that amount to continue our misguided military involvement in the civil war in Iraq.

And when it comes to fighting this war, there is no sense of shared sacrifice. The only families being asked to sacrifice are military families and they are being asked to sacrifice again and again. Meanwhile, even the most fortunate of the rest of us are being asked to make no sacrifice whatsoever. Americans who make more than a million dollars a year, instead of being asked for sacrifice, are being asked to accept well over \$50 billion a year in tax cuts, like the war itself, paid for with borrowed money.

As you know, to bring a greater sense of balance and proportion to the debate surrounding these issues, we have drafted legislation to impose a progressive war surtax to pay for the cost of the effort in Iraq.

Some people are being asked to pay with their lives or their faces or their hands or their arms or their legs. If they are being asked to do that, it doesn't seem too much to ask the average taxpayer to pay \$112 for the cost of the war so we don't have to shove it off on our kids.

The surtax rates would range from 2.5% for married couples with incomes between \$30,000 and \$100,000 and 16.5% on income beyond \$250,000 and on corporations. The bill would exempt members of our military who have served in combat since September 11, 2001 along with their families, as well as families of the fallen.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey

John P. Murtha

James P. McGovern

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress